



It's high time to be water-wise

Themba Khoza writes:

A dry winter season is upon us.

Most parts of the country normally receive rainfall during the summer season, with the exception of the Western Cape, which receives rainfall in winter.

As we approach winter, it is high time that we use the available water wisely and sparingly, and prioritise water conservation in everything we do, especially since South Africa is a water-scarce and dry country.

As South Africa is one of the 30 driest countries in the world and receives about half of the world average in terms of rainfall, it is high time that we prioritise the conservative and wise use of precious water and prevent water losses.

Let us remember that every drop counts, as water has no substitute.

We are also faced with the reality of climate change, which has a major impact on water availability. It has changed rainfall patterns, which leads to less rain and also brings with it high temperatures, which lead to high evaporation, causing



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losses in water resources.

This calls for responsibility and behavioural change in our water use to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change. Water security is in our hands. We need to use the available water wisely, sparingly and in a more conservative manner, especially as water resources are shrinking and populations are growing. Population growth means the need for more water to cater for everyone and their needs. If we work together, we can prevent

the unnecessary wastage and water losses that are threatening the water security of our country.

Working together, we can save more water and contribute to reliable water

supply and water security.

Advocacy is also important to build responsible and water-savvy communities who value every single drop of water. It is therefore important that we talk and create awareness about water conservation and make it part of our culture. The more we talk about it, the more it will be entrenched in our daily lives and become part of our daily routine.

We must identify all leaks and fix them to save water in our households and other areas under our responsibility. As responsible residents, we must also report leaks on the bulk water supply pipes, and the responsible municipalities and other authorities responsible for water supply must ensure speedy fixing. Municipalities must also prioritise operations and maintenance to ensure that water supply runs smoothly and prevent unnecessary water outages in communities. Leaks have been identified as major contributors to water losses, therefore we need to ensure that they are sorted out as soon as they are identified.

Pollution negatively affects water quality, leading to less water fit for use.

All we need to do is to be responsible citizens and water users who prioritise water conservation and the protection of water resources. Let us remember that water security for our generation and future generations is in our hands.